



IFSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD

The IFSA Foundation scholarship aims to expand the opportunities for MDC students to engage in semester-long academic programs abroad and to infuse service-learning into the students' study abroad experience.

1. The IFSA Foundation Scholarship for Study Abroad is administered by the Office of International Education at MDC with the support of a grant provided to the college by the IFSA foundation.
2. Applications for the scholarship are distributed by and submitted to the Office of International Education prior to application deadlines (Fall: March 15, Spring: October 1st)
3. All applications will be reviewed by a study abroad scholarship committee, which will be broadly representative of ethnicity, gender, campus, and discipline. The committee will be established as a sub-committee of the CASSC International Education Committee and will be comprised of four faculty members, one representative from the Center for Community Involvement, one representative from the Office of International Education, and the Director for International Education, who serves as committee chair, and who, in collaboration with the CASSC International Education Committee, will appoint the committee members.
4. Each scholarship awarded will be in the amount of \$5,000 plus a \$200 travel stipend, and five students will be selected to receive this award each semester (Fall and Spring) for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- a. The IFSA Foundation scholarship is open to all US residents or US citizens who meet the criteria listed below.
- b. The applicant must be accepted into or applying for a semester-long (long term) MDC-approved study abroad program in one of the following regions: Africa, Latin America, Asia, or Eastern Europe. These programs are available through the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS), of which MDC is a member, in the following eligible countries: Argentina, Belize, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, and Russia. Information about the programs in these countries can be found at: http://www.mdc.edu/mdcglobal/studyabroad_programs.asp. Summer only programs or programs in Western Europe or Australia are not eligible. Coursework for the study abroad program must transfer or be equivalent to MDC coursework. This is confirmed by completing the Study Abroad Credit Approval Form. For more information on pre-approved programs



and credit transferability, please contact the Office of International Education at (305) 237-3008 or mherna14@mdc.edu.

- c. The applicant must have demonstrated financial need, as reflected by his/her SAR and MDC financial aid packet. Must be Pell grant recipient.
- d. The applicant must have no prior experience participating in long-term semester-long study abroad programs. Special consideration will be given to students who have little or no prior international travel experience.
- e. The applicant must have completed at least one full semester or 12 credit hours at MDC prior to beginning his/her study abroad experience.
- f. The applicant must be in good academic standing and must have no sanctions for breach of the student conduct code in order to be considered for the award.
- g. This scholarship is for study abroad programs only. If a student is awarded and decides not to study abroad, the award will be withdrawn and given to a student on the alternate list of selected students.
- h. No student may receive the IFSA scholarship for study abroad more than once.
- i. Applicant must have successfully completed ENC 1101, or equivalent.
- j. Applicant must be attending MDC as a degree-seeking student.
- k. Applicant must be intending to enroll at MDC the semester following his/her study abroad experience.

Award recipients are selected using the following criteria:

- a. Meeting all Eligibility (Requirements)
- b. Diversity of Applicant Pool
- c. Field of Study/Major
- d. Country of Destination
- e. Statement of Purpose Essay
- f. Service-Learning Project Proposal Essay
- g. Academic Progress and Performance (2.5 GPA minimum)
- h. Lack Previous Undergraduate Study Abroad Experience

ACADEMIC AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. While abroad, students will be required to maintain full-time student status (12+ credits) while conducting a total of 30 hours of service per semester.



2. Students must maintain the full-time student status while abroad (12+ credits)
3. All academic coursework must be pre-approved for MDC credit upon acceptance into the study abroad program. Proof of this must be provided to the scholarship committee as part of the application process.
4. Students are required to participate in two 2-hour workshops on study abroad and international service-learning, as well as all pre-departure orientation and service project preparation mandatory meetings
5. Service project requirements include: preparation prior to commencing the project; action that includes direct or indirect service; reflection on the experience; demonstration of learning and impact. A service-learning project handbook will be provided to students prior to departure with required forms, reflection questions, and detailed instructions.
6. Throughout the semester, students will be expected to email the Office of International Education two-page (minimum) journal entries reflecting upon their academic and service-learning experience abroad. Essay topics with submission instructions will be provided to the students prior to departure.
7. Upon their return, students are required to lead a series of follow up presentations to students, faculty, and staff at MDC and to the local community. The presentations and discussions will be designed by the students, in collaboration with the Office of International Education and the Center for Community Involvement.